



March 7, 2023

To: Nelson Pesigan, Strategic Advisor
City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

From: Jeanette Imanishi, Seattle Public Schools

Re: West Seattle High School – Departure Comment Response

We are in receipt of comments related to our Departures requests from the City of Seattle Land Use Code:

- Departure 1 – Vehicle Parking Quantity, SMC 23.54.015 Table C, Row N: Departure requested to reduce parking from previous departure of 191 parking spaces to 161 spaces, for a departure of 30 spaces.
- Departure 2 – Bicycle Parking, SMC 23.54.015 Table D: Departure requested to no provide covered bicycle parking.

Most of the comments were related to Departure 1, vehicle parking quantity. Of these, some comments supported the departure request while most comments raised concerns over the proposal. This memo is intended to address the concerns.

Response to comments related to concern over the potential increased demand for on-street parking due to displacement of on-site parking if portable classrooms are placed there: Heffron Transportation was hired to perform a parking study. To briefly summarize:

- Heffron Transportation, Inc., was hired to perform and document a detailed on-street parking study according to the methodology outlined in City of Seattle’s TIP #117. The City recommends use of this methodology to document the number and type of on-street parking spaces that may exist within a defined study area.
- The study area for the on-street parking utilization analysis included all roadways within an 800-foot walking distance from the school site, which is the study area typically required by the City for analyses of this type.
- Both off-street and on-street parking at and around the West Seattle High School site were surveyed to determine the existing parking supply and parking demand. This information was then used to estimate how parking utilization could be affected by the placement of portables at West Seattle High School.
- The parking supply was inventoried for three representative weekday periods: early-morning (7:00 A.M.) when many residents are typically home, some school staff may begin arriving, but before most students arrive, mid-morning (10:30 A.M.) when students and staff are at school, and evening (7:30 P.M.) when some school events may occur.
- It was found that the study area has parking utilization rate of 54% to 61%, therefore there is ample on-street parking capacity available to accommodate demand resulting from increased enrollment and displacement of on-site parking spaces due to the addition of portable classrooms.



Response to comments related to locating the portable classrooms on the grass field to the south of the school: The land use decision dated March 23, 2000 on the Master Use Permit application for the expansion of West Seattle High School indicates in part that *“The playfield located at the southern most portion of the site...shall be retained indefinitely.”*, therefore this location is not an option. Please see item 7 on page 21 of the Decision provided separately from this memo.

Response to comments related to access to parking by the disabled, elderly or service providers in front of the home: The homeowners might consider requesting a Residential Disabled Parking Zone permit from SDOT. SPS would not object to neighbors petitioning SDOT for either establishment of new parking restrictions (such as short-term time limits for some spaces during school hours) for those locations, and/or designating some spaces for commercial load/unload only in the area.

The Transportation Technical Report by Heffron Transportation and the Director’s Decision concerning the Master Use Permit application for the West Seattle High School renovation and addition project in 2000 will be provided separately for your reference.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Imanishi", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeanette Imanishi, RA
Project Manager